



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
Eagle River-Florence Ranger District

Eagle River Office
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Eagle River, WI 54521
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File Code: 1950
Date: May 28, 2019

Dear Interested Party:

Greetings. You are receiving this letter because you expressed interest in forest management project proposals on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest or you own property adjacent to this proposed project. The USDA Forest Service is preparing an environmental assessment for the Fourmile Vegetation Management project.

The goal of this letter is to seek input from interested parties to aid me, the Responsible Official, in designing the project and associated environmental analysis. The analysis will be in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Chequamegon -Nicolet National Forest 2004 Land and Resource Management Plan, and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Project Location:

The Fourmile project area covers National Forest System lands located in parts of Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties, Wisconsin. The activities would be within portions of legal descriptions: T40N, R11E and R12E; T39N, R11E and R12E; and T38N, R11E and R12E. A detailed project proposal and set of maps is enclosed.

Proposed Action:

Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, meets the purpose and need with actions on around 12,000 acres with vegetation management, including timber harvest and reforestation; 562 acres of fuel reduction pertaining to wildfire probability and reforestation; maintenance of 6.5 miles of hunting hiking trails and associated wildlife openings; road construction, reconstruction, decommissioning, and conversion to trail; and updating the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). Additional information can be obtained at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51959>.

How can interested individuals submit comments?

We welcome your feedback on the proposed action. Comments are welcome at any time, but only those who submit timely, project-specific, written comments during the official comment periods would be eligible to file an objection.

An official 30-day comment period on this proposal begins on the first day after publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record, *The Northwoods River News*, of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. The legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period; publication is expected the week of May 28, 2019. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36



CFR 218.2). Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project, and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments.

This project is subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process, also known as the objection process (36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B). Only individuals or entities who submit timely and project-specific written comments for this comment period or during other designated comment periods for this project will establish standing to file an objection at the time a draft Decision is published.

Any comments received regarding this proposal are part of the public record and, therefore, are available for public review upon request. Input received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, and contact information of those who respond, will be considered a part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection.

If you wish to reference scientific literature in your comment letter, I request that you send a copy of the reference cited and explain why it is pertinent to this project. This will allow me to fully evaluate your comments; if I do not receive a copy of the literature, I may not be able to consider it in making my decision.

Submitting your input or otherwise expressing interest during this 30-day period will ensure that you remain on the mailing list for this project.

Please address your comments to Chad Kirschbaum (District Ranger). ATTN: Kristine Vollmer, 500 Hanson Lake Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501. Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver, are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., central time, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays). Comments may also be submitted by phone at 715-362-1346, fax at 715-369-8859, or e-mail at Kristine.Vollmer@usda.gov or FS-comments-eastern-chequamegon-nicolet-eagle@fs.fed.us (please put "Comments on Fourmile project" in the subject line). Acceptable formats for electronic comments are plain text (*.txt), rich text format (*.rtf), or html e-mail, Adobe pliable document format (*.pdf), and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications, like Word (*.doc). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

What are the next steps?

After this 30-day comment period ends, the comments received will be evaluated by the interdisciplinary team and Responsible Official to determine whether the design of this project needs to be changed, or if alternatives to the proposed action are necessary. The environmental assessment will then be updated to disclose information regarding: (1) the results of the public comment period; (2) the expected outcomes and effects of project implementation; and (3) whether this project is consistent with applicable laws, regulations and policy. An updated draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be published to initiate a 45-day objection filing period. A final Decision can be made after any objections are resolved and responded to.

Contact Information

Maps and more information about this project are available on the Forest's website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51959>. If you need additional information, please

contact Kristine Vollmer, Environmental Coordinator, at 715-362-1346 or Kristine.Vollmer@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chad K", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CHAD KIRSCHBAUM
District Ranger

Enclosures:

cc: Paul Strong, Kristine Vollmer

